

AN ACT relating to adult protective services; providing a civil cause of action for the exploitation of vulnerable adults as specified; and providing for an effective date.

Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Wyoming:

Section 1. W.S. 35-20-117 is created to read:

35-20-117. Civil cause of action for exploitation of vulnerable adults.

A vulnerable adult shall have a cause of action against any person who has exploited or financially exploited the vulnerable adult. The vulnerable adult may recover actual damages for the exploitation or financial exploitation. If the court finds that the person acted with malicious intent when exploiting or financially exploiting the vulnerable adult, then the vulnerable adult may be awarded punitive damages. The action may be brought by the vulnerable adult, that person's guardian or conservator or by the personal representative of the estate of a deceased vulnerable adult. The action may be brought in any court of competent jurisdiction to enforce the action.

Section 2. This act is effective July 1, 2024.

(END)